Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a page layout template, the template including a hierarchy of boxes, the hierarchy including an exterior bounding box for the template and one or more interior boxes contained within the exterior bounding box, the exterior bounding box forming the topmost level of the hierarchy, the one or more interior boxes forming one or more lower levels of the hierarchy, each lower level including one or more interior boxes, the exterior bounding box having one or more dimensions that are variable, at least one of the interior boxes having one or more metrics that are variable in the same dimensions as the exterior bounding box, each metric specifying a size for the interior box, a distance between the interior box and another box, or both, the size or distance each being defined as two values, a first value specifying a nominal value, and a second value specifying a range of permissible values around athe nominal value, the another box being another box on the same level or on a different level of the hierarchy;

converting the one or more variable dimensions of the exterior bounding box into one or more fixed dimensions; and

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes based on the fixed dimensions.

16.   (Previously Presented) The product of claim 15, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order.

17.   (Previously Presented) The product of claim 16, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes independently in each dimension.

18.   (Previously Presented) The product of claim 16, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension.

19.   (Previously Presented) The product of claim 18, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension includes:

terminating adjustment in a given dimension for an interior box and any child boxes contained within the interior box when the interior box has a synthesized metric in the given dimension, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

20.   (Previously Presented) The product of claim 15, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

for each variable dimension,

for each level of the hierarchy,

for each interior box in the level,

adjusting the metric in the variable dimension to a value within the range of permissible values.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein adjusting the metric in the variable dimension includes:

if the metric is a synthesized metric, terminating adjustment of the interior box and any child boxes contained within the interior box, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

22.   (Previously Presented) The product of claim 15, wherein:

the metrics include a synthesized metric, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box; and

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes without adjusting the synthesized metric.

23.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the operations further comprise:

flowing content into the interior boxes; and

adjusting the synthesized metric based on the flowed content.

24.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to perform operations~~method comprising:

receiving a page layout template, the template including a hierarchy of boxes, the hierarchy including an exterior bounding box for the template and one or more interior boxes contained within the exterior bounding box, the exterior bounding box forming the topmost level of the hierarchy, the one or more interior boxes forming one or more lower levels of the hierarchy, each lower level including one or more interior boxes, the exterior bounding box having one or more dimensions that are variable, at least one of the interior boxes having one or more metrics that are variable in the same dimensions as the exterior bounding box, each metric specifying a size for the interior box, a distance between the interior box and another

box, or both, the size or distance <u>each being</u> defined as <u>two values, a first value specifying a</u>

<u>nominal value, and a second value specifying</u> a range of permissible values around a<u>the</u>

nominal value, the ~~an~~other box being another box on the same level or on a different level of

the hierarchy;

converting the one or more variable dimensions of the exterior bounding box into one

or more fixed dimensions; and

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes based on the fixed dimensions.

25.   (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 24, wherein adjusting the

metrics of the interior boxes includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order.

26.   (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 25, wherein adjusting the

metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes independently in each dimension.

27.   (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 25, wherein adjusting the

metrics of the interior boxes in hierarchical order includes:

adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another

dimension.

28.   (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 27, wherein adjusting the

metrics of the interior boxes, first in one dimension, and then in another dimension includes:

terminating adjustment in a given dimension for an interior box and any child boxes

contained within the interior box when the interior box has a synthesized metric in the given

dimension, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed

into the interior box.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 24, wherein adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes:

    for each variable dimension,

        for each level of the hierarchy,

            for each interior box in the level,

                adjusting the metric in the variable dimension to a value within the range of permissible values.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 29, wherein adjusting the metric in the variable dimension includes:

    if the metric is a synthesized metric, terminating adjustment of the interior box and any child boxes contained within the interior box, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 24, wherein:

    the metrics include a synthesized metric, the synthesized metric being a metric that is adjusted after content has been flowed into the interior box; and

    adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes includes adjusting the metrics of the interior boxes without adjusting the synthesized metric.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~method of claim 31, ~~wherein the operations~~ further ~~comprise~~comprising:

    flowing content into the interior boxes; and

    adjusting the synthesized metric based on the flowed content.